

CURRICULUM VITAE
Elizabeth A. McAlister

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Education

1995 Ph.D. American Studies, Yale University
1993 M. Phil. American Studies, Yale University
1992 M.A. History, Yale University
1990 M.A. African and Afro-American Studies, Yale University
1985 B.A. *summa cum laude*, Anthropology, Vassar College

Books

[*Rara! Vodou, Power, and Performance in Haiti and its Diaspora.*](#) Book and compact disc.
(Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).

[*Race, Nation and Religion in the Americas.*](#) Co-edited with Henry Goldschmidt (New York
and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Book Manuscript in Preparation

Spiritual Warfare at the Crossroads on the rise of Pentecostalism in Haiti and its US
influences

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

“Esoteric Practices: Of Secrecy, Resilience, and Politics” in *Method and Theory in the
Study of Religion* special issue: Global Esotericisms 37 (2025): 315-322.

“Field Notes on Queer Women’s Haiti: Changing Rhythms Across Three Decades” in
The Journal of Haitian Studies 30: 1&2 (2025): 343-354.

“In Between Catholic, Vodou, and Protestant” Co-authored with Karen Richman. In
Celucien L. Joseph and Lewis Clormeus, eds, [*Evangelicals, Catholics, and Vodouyizan in
Haiti.*](#) (NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2024): 221-262.

[“Necroscape and Diaspora: Making Ancestors in Haitian Vodou”](#) in Timothy Landry, Eric Montgomery and Christian Vannier, eds., [Spirit Service: Vodun and Vodou in the African Atlantic World](#). (Indiana University Press, 2022): 283-306.

“Secrecy, Spirit Work, and Women’s Fugitive Speech in the Creolophone Caribbean” in Hugh Urban and Paul Johnson, eds, [The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Secrecy](#). (Routledge, 2022): 320-328.

“[Sacred Waters of Haitian Vodou: The Pilgrimage of Sodo](#)” in Celeste Ray, ed., *Sacred Waters: A Cross-Cultural Compendium of Hallowed Springs and Holy Wells*. (Routledge Publishing, 2020): 259-265.

[“Caribbean Women’s Fugitive Speech Traditions”](#) *Women in French Studies Journal*, Special conference issue, Dec 31, 2019: 25-35.

[“Race, Gender, and Christian Diaspora: New Pentecostal Intersectionalities and Haiti”](#) in Judith Casselberry and Elizabeth A. Pritchard, eds., [Spirit on the Move: Black Women and Pentecostalism in Africa and the Diaspora](#), Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2019: 44-64. [[doi here](#)]

[“The Militarization of Prayer in America: White and Native American Spiritual Warfare”](#) *Journal of Religious and Political Practice*. 1: 1 (2016): 114-130 [[doi here](#)]

--Reprinted in Peter Van der Veer, Ed., [Prayer and Politics](#). (New York: Routledge, February 2017).

“Rara in New York City: Transnational Popular Culture” in Yanique Hume and Aaron Kamugisha, eds., [Caribbean popular culture: power, politics and performance](#). (Kingston; Miami: Ian Randle Publishers, 2016): 452-469.

[“The Color of Christ in Haiti”](#) *Journal of Africana Religions* 2:3 (2014): 409-418. [[doi here](#)]

[“Possessing the Land for Jesus,”](#) in Paul C. Johnson, ed., *Spirited Things: The Work of “Possession” in Black Atlantic Religions* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014): 177-205.

[“Le Festival Rara en Haiti: Travail Religieux et Divertissement Public en Temps d’Insécurité et de Troubles.”](#) *Bulletin Du Bureau National d’Ethnologie* 48:2 (April 2014): 69-75.

[“Humanitarian Adhocracy, Transnational New Apostolic Missions, and Evangelical Anti-Dependency in a Haitian Refugee Camp,”](#) *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 16:4 (May 2013). [[doi here](#)]

--Reprinted in Horstmann and Jung, eds, [*Building Noah's Ark for Migrants, Refugees, and Religious Communities*](#) (London: Palgrave Macmillan, June 2015): 181-206.

[“Soundscapes of Disaster and Humanitarianism: Survival Singing, Relief Telethons, and the Haiti Earthquake,”](#) *Small Axe: A Caribbean Platform for Criticism* 39 (Nov 2012): 22-38. [[doi here](#)]

[“From Slave Revolt to a Blood Pact with Satan: The Evangelical Rewriting of Haitian History,”](#) *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 41:2 (June 2012): 187-215. [[doi here](#)]

--Reprinted in Millery Polyne, ed., [*The Idea of Haiti: Rethinking Crisis and Development*](#) (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013).

[“Slaves, Cannibals, and Infected Hyper-Whites: The Race and Religion of Zombies,”](#) *Anthropological Quarterly* 85:2 (Spring 2012): 457-486.

--Reprinted in Sarah Juliet Lauro, ed., [*Zombie Theory: A Reader*](#). U of Minnesota Press, 2017.

[“Listening for Geographies: Music as Sonic Compass Pointing Towards African and Christian Diasporic Horizons in the Caribbean,”](#) *Black Music Research Journal* 32:2 (Fall 2012): 25-50. [[doi here](#)]

--Reprinted in Regine O. Jackson, ed., *Geographies of the Haitian Diaspora* (New York: Routledge, 2011): 207-228.

[“Catholic, Vodou, and Protestant: Being Haitian, Becoming American—Religious Pluralism, Immigrant Incorporation, and Transnationalism,”](#) (co-authored with Karen Richman) in Richard Alba, Albert J. Raboteau and Josh DeWind, eds., *Immigration and Religion in America: Comparative and Historical Perspectives* (New York: NYU Press, 2009): 319-352.

[“Rara as Popular Army: Hierarchy, Militarism, and Warfare,”](#) in Philip Scher, ed., *Perspectives on the Caribbean: A Reader in Culture, History, and Representation* (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009): 129-143.

[“Globalization and the Religious Production of Space,”](#) *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44:3 (Sept 2005): 249-255.

--Reprinted in Paul W. James, ed., *Globalization and Culture: Central Currents in Globalization*, Vol.1 (London: Sage Publications, 2010).

[“The Rite of Baptism in Haitian Vodou,”](#) in Colleen McDannell, ed., *Religions of the United States in Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), 362-371. [[doi here](#)]

["Love, Sex and Gender Embodied: The Spirits of Haitian Vodou,"](#) in Nancy Martin and Joseph Runzo, eds., *Love, Gender and Sexuality in the World Religions* (Oxford: Oxford Oneworld Press, 2000), 128-145.

--Translated into French and reprinted as "[Amour, sexe et genre incarnés: les esprits du vaudou haïtien](#)" *Africultures* 58 (Jan 2004): 111-130.

["The Jew in the Haitian Imagination: Premodern Anti-Judaism in the Postmodern Caribbean,"](#) in Yvonne Chireau and Nathaniel Deutsch, eds., *Black Zion: African-American Religious Encounters with Judaism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000): 203-237.

--Revised and reprinted as "The Jew in the Haitian Imagination: A Popular History of Anti-Judaism and Proto-Racism," in Henry Goldschmidt and Elizabeth McAlister, eds., *Race, Nation, and Religion in the Americas* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004): 61-84.

--Also reprinted in Claudine Michel and Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, eds., *Vodou in Haitian Life and Culture: Invisible Powers* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006): 79-100.

["The Madonna of 115th Street Revisited: Vodou and Haitian Catholicism in the Age of Transnationalism,"](#) in R. Stephen Warner, ed., *Gatherings in Diaspora: Religious Communities and the New Immigration* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998): 123-160.

--Reprinted in Cornel West and Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., eds., *African American Religious Thought: An Anthology* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2003): 942-977.

--Also reprinted in Janice A. Radway, Kevin G. Gaines, Barry Shank, and Penny Von Eschen, eds., *American Studies: An Anthology* (Malden, MA : Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 233-245.

"Teaching September 11th" *The Council of Societies for the Study of Religion: Bulletin* (30:4 2001): 76-77.

--Reprinted in *Reinventing Religious Studies: Key Writings in the History of a Discipline*. Scott S. Elliott, ed. (Taylor & Francis, 2014.)

--Also reprinted in *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 50.4 (2021), 137-138.

"New York, Lavalas, and the Emergence of Rara," *Journal of Haitian Studies* 2:2 (Autumn 1996): 131-139.

["A Sorcerer's Bottle: The Visual Art of Magic in Haiti,"](#) in Donald J. Cosentino, ed., *Sacred Arts of Haitian Vodou* (Los Angeles: UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, 1995), 304-321

--Translated into French and reprinted as “[Voyage autour d’une bouteille de sorcier: L’Art visuel de la magie en Haiti](#),” in Michel Le Bris, ed., *Vaudou* (Paris: Hoebeke, 2003), 134-155.

--Reprinted in Phoebe Reeves, ed., *Turning the Century: A Bits and Bytes Reader for Developing Writers* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000), 238-251.

“[Sacred Stories from the Haitian Diaspora: A Collective Biography of Seven Vodou Priestesses in New York City](#),” *Journal of Caribbean Studies* 9:1 & 2 (Winter 1993): 10-27.

Additional Book Chapters

“Je nan Je: Haitian Visual Epistemologies” in Lean Gordon, ed., *Ghetto Biennale/Geto Byanal 2009-2015* (London: No Eraser Publishing, 2017): 204-207. [In English and Haitian Kreyòl]

“From the Rubble to the Telethon: Music, Religion and the Haiti Quake,” in Martin Munro, ed., *Haiti Rising: Haitian History, Culture, and the Earthquake of 2010* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2010), 96-101.

“Religion in Post-Earthquake Haiti,” (co-authored with Leslie Desmangles) in Martin Munro, ed., *Haiti Rising: Haitian History, Culture, and the Earthquake of 2010* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2010), 70-78.

“Il festival rara ad Haiti: opera religiosa e drama pubblico in tempi di insicurezza e di disordine,” in Emmanuelle Honorin, ed., *L’isola magica Haiti* (Milan: Casa Ricciardi, 2011), 51-57. [Translated into Italian from “The Rara Festival in Haiti: Religious Work and Public Play in Times of Insecurity and Turmoil,” and largely drawn from my book *Rara!*]

Online Educational Websites

“[Espas Milokan](#)” a digital archive of Nah Ri-VeH, Vodou Temple in Port-au-Prince

“[Rara Festivals in Haiti and New York](#),” an educational website in English, French and (soon) Haitian Creole at rara.research.wesleyan.edu

Reference Book Entries

“Vodou,” *Encyclopædia Britannica and Encyclopædia Britannica Online Academic Edition*. <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/632819/Vodou>> 2010

“Rastafari,” *Encyclopædia Britannica and Encyclopædia Britannica Online Academic Edition* <<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/491801/Rastafari>> 2010

“Rara,” *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World, Vol. III*. Ed David Laing (New York: Continuum/Bloomsbury, 2005)

Public Intellectual Writings

“[For Some Catholics, it is Demons that Taunt Priests with Sexual Desire](#)” in *The Conversation*, April 23, 2018

“[Haiti and the Distortion of its Vodou Religion](#)” co-authored with Millery Polyne, CNN.com, April 19, 2017

“*The benefits of (studying) negative and aggressive prayer*” on *The Immanent Frame* online publication of Social Science Research Council, September 30, 2014.

“[They’re Praying for the Worst. Is that Wrong?](#)” LA Times opinion piece, June 25, 2014

“[The Bad Boy Makes Good](#)” on Haiti president-elect Michel Martelly for *Foreign Policy*, April 8, 2011

--Translated into French and reissued as “En Haiti, la musique prend la pouvoir” on *Slate Afrique*

“[Poster Child](#)” (co-authored with daughter Lovely Nicolas) *E-Misfèrica* (published by the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics at NYU) 7:1 (Summer 2010)

“Singing Against the Rubble” *Religion in the News* 13:1 (Summer 2010)

“[Haiti and the Unseen World](#)” *The Immanent Frame*, Social Science Research Council blog, Jan 31, 2010

“[Why Does Haiti Suffer So Much?](#)” CNN.com Jan 18, 2010

“Voodoo’s View of the Quake in Haiti” *Newsweek/Washington Post* Jan 15, 2010

“[Devil’s Logic](#)” *Forbes.com* Jan 14, 2010

“The New Gurus” *The Immanent Frame* Social Science Research Council blog, Sept 27, 2009

“[Obama, Zombies, and Black Male Messiahs](#)” *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project* Sept 29, 2009

[“Roundtable: Haitian Music,”](#) *The New Yorker Online*, March 24 and July 13, 2009

[“The Lucky Ones, a mother-daughter story of love and war”](#) (co-authored with Lovely Nicolas) *Oxygen.com* 2000

Selected Public Interviews

Interviewed for NPR World Café [“Haitian Music and the Music of New Orleans”](#) aired on Feb 1, 2021

Interviewed for [“Zombies,”](#) *NPR Throughline* podcast, Oct 31, 2019. Excerpted on Morning Edition

Interviewed on CNN Believer with Reza Aslan, [Episode 3: Haiti](#), aired April 2017

“La situation religieuse en Haiti après le séisme du 12 Janvier 2010: Entretien avec Elizabeth McAlister par Lewis Ampidu Clorméus” *Histoire, monde et cultures religieuses*, 1 (29) 2014: 133-136.

[“Perspectives on Haiti’s Earthquake”](#) *The New York Times* Jan 20, 2010

“Vodou Brings Solace to Grieving Haitians” by Barbara Bradley Hagerty, on *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio (consulting and interview), Jan 20, 2010

[“Understanding the Haiti Earthquake: A Crisis of Faith and Meaning”](#) *Interfaith Voices* on Public Radio (extended interview) Jan 2010

[“Music and the Story of Haiti”](#) *Afropop Worldwide Hip Deep* Radio Essay (co-producer and guest scholar with extended interview) Public Radio International, Nov 2007

“Religious Rituals: A Wesleyan Teacher Debunks the Myths about Voodoo” *The New York Times*, Jan 19, 2003

[“Vodou Epiphany: Les Trois Rois”](#) *Pulse of the Planet*

[“Fresh Air,”](#) with Terry Gross, *National Public Radio* (extended interview) Feb 20, 1996

Discography

Rara! Vodou, Power and Performance in Haiti and its Diaspora. Recorded and produced compact disc to accompany book of same title, 2002.

Music in Latin American Culture: Regional Traditions. Schirmer Books, 1999. Recorded one track and wrote its liner notes for compact disc produced by Gage Averill.

Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery. Rycodisc, RCD 90444/3, 1998. Produced track and wrote liner notes for compact disc accompanying four-part television series for WGBH/Boston, produced by Bernice Johnson Reagon.

Angels in the Mirror: Vodou Music of Haiti. Roslyn, NY: Ellipsis Arts, 1997. Recorded and co-produced compact disc and booklet.

Rhythms of Rapture: Sacred Musics of Vodou Smithsonian/Folkways, SF 40464, 1995. Recorded and produced compact disc and liner notes.

Awards, Grants, Fellowships

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| 2024 | Albritton Center for Public Life at Wesleyan, to host invited symposium on "Female Religious Activists of New England" |
| 2023 | " <u>Digitally Preserving a Vodou Temple in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.</u> " <u>Princeton Crossroads Fellow</u> , Crossroads Project: Black Religious Histories, Communities, and Cultures, Princeton University Center for Culture, Society and Religion. |
| 2019 | National Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion & American Culture. |
| 2019 | Cardinal Faculty Achievement Award for Service to Wesleyan. First Annual |
| 2012 | "Understanding Aggressive Forms of Prayer." Grant to fund research and leave from the Templeton Foundation initiative on the Study of Prayer organized by the Social Science Research Council, New York, NY. |
| 2011 | Elected to membership in the American Society for the Study of Religion. |
| 2010 | Member of Social Science Research Council working group on "Spirituality, Political Engagement, and Public Life," New York, NY. |
| 2009 | Faculty Fellow, Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, Spring Term. |

- 2009 Sciences Across the Curriculum Grant, Wesleyan University.
- 2008 Binswanger Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Wesleyan University.
- 2004 Member of New York University Center for Religion and Media working group on “Christianity and Old and New Media.”
- 2004 Faculty Fellow, Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, Fall Term.
- 2004 Learning Object Grant to develop Web-based learning initiative at Wesleyan.
- 1999-2002 Faculty Research Fellow, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at Yale.
- 1997-1998 External Fellow, Program for Young Scholars in American Religion, The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University.
- 1996-1997 Visitor, Mellon Seminar on Transnational Approaches to the Study of International Migration and Refugee Movements, Yale University Center for Global Migration.
- 1995-96 Post-doctoral Fellow, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University, New Brunswick.
- 1994-95 Fellow, New Ethnic and Immigrant Congregations Project, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Lectures and Conference Papers

Discussant, “Film panel.” Yale Institute for Sacred Music conference on Black Sacred Arts, May 14, 2025, Yale University

“Creoles and fugitive sound,” Rereading Haiti, History and the Gods Symposium, May 9-10, 2025, Wesleyan

Attendee, American Association for the Study of Religion, April 25-27, 2025, Barnard College

“The Militarization of Prayer and Evangelical Spiritual Warfare in Haiti,” Society for Sociology of Religion, Oct 20, 2025, Pittsburg

“Gender roles and sex dreams: Haitian evangelical and human and spiritual spouses,” Haitian Studies Association, Oct 11, 2025, Brooklyn College

Discussant, “Vodou Ecological Ethic for Earth Liberation,” Yale Institute for Sacred Music conference on Black Sacred Arts, May 13-15, 2024, Yale University

“Christian Missions and Americanism,” Symposium on Female Religious Activists in New England,” April 3-5, Wesleyan University

“Liberating Zombies: Desacralizing, Decommissioning, Repatriating,” American Association for the Study of Religion invited conference, April 19-21, 2024, U Michigan

“Zombies as Anti-iconic Icon,” Spiritual Powers: A Conference on Cultural Icons, April 4-5, 2024, Arizona State University

Workshop Participant, “Researching Radicalism,” March 22-23, Ethics Institute at Northeastern University

“Digitizing the Sacred Arts of a Vodou Temple: Preserving Patrimony,” Haitian Studies Association annual conference, Oct 7, 2023, Morehouse College

“Evangelicals, Catholics and Vodouyizan in Haiti” Congress of Santa Barbara annual conference, Oct 6, Morehouse College

“Bwa Kayiman in Haitian Memory,” Aug 15, 2023, Center for Faith, Reason and Dialogue, Virtual

“Haitian Bizango Secret Society Hums and Vocal Transformations,” Yale Institute for Sacred Music conference on Black Sacred Arts, May 15, 2023, Yale University

Discussant, “Africana Religions and the Critical Study of Religion,” American Society for the Study of Religion annual conference, April 29, 2023, Yale University

“Making Ancestors in Vernacular Religions” American Church History Society conference keynote panel on Vernacular Religions, Jan 5, 2023, Philadelphia, PA

“Creolophone Women’s Speech,” Haitian Studies Association, Oct 2022, Howard University, Washington DC

“Religion, Magic, Ethnography,” Boston University Religion Dept, April 12, 2022

“Contemporary White Missionaries to Haiti and the Paradoxes of Decolonization” Invited conference “Haiti and Decolonization in Biblical and Religious Studies” U Texas Austin, April 1, 2022, Virtual

“The Haitian Revolution and Carnival Culture,” Invited talk for Friends of the Cabildo 8th Annual Symposium – Revolution: The Haitian Revolution and its Impact on New Orleans, Louisiana, and the United States Dec 11, 2021, Virtual

Panelist for American Academy of Religion Arts Award -- Toshi Reagon, Nov 2021

"The Development of Rara, music and politics since the 1990s," Caracoli Conference, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Nov 14, 2021, Virtual

Interviews of Paul Beaubrun, Richard Morse, and Erol Josue on music and politics in Haiti-Cuba-New Orleans for "Postmambo" hosted by Ned Sublette, Fall 2021, Virtual

"Sound and Secrecy," American Association of Religion High Theory II conference organized by John Modern Feb 25, 2020, Virtual

"White Evangelicals and the Changing Environment in Haiti" Plenary panel, Haitian Studies Association annual conference, Gainesville, FL, Oct 19, 2019

2018

"The Militarization of Prayer and Evangelical Spiritual Warfare in Haiti" Public talk at Dartmouth College sponsored by Anthropology Department May 3, 2018.

"Evangelical Militarism's Global Spread" Paper for invited conference Religious Movement: at University of Virginia Centro de las Américas/Americas Center April 21, 2018.

"In Haiti women's gossip is worse than magic" Keynote address, Women in French annual conference, Florida State University, Feb 8, 2018.

2017

"Religion, Refugees, and the Security State" Paper for invited conference at University of Utrecht, Dec 14, 2017.

"The Bittersweet Double-Return Across Two Waters of Frisner Augustin" paper for American Anthropological Association conference, Washington, DC, Dec 2, 2017.

"National Security and Natural Disaster in Haiti," paper for American Association of Religion conference, Boston, Nov 17, 2017.

"Rara then and now" Discussant on panel in honor 15th anniversary of my book *Rara: Vodou, Power and Performance in Haiti and its Diaspora* (U California Press, 2002). Haitian Studies Association annual conference, New Orleans, Nov 10, 2017.

“Power Objects: Charging and discharging in Afro-Caribbean religions” Invited talk, University of Vermont, (sponsored by Religion Dept) Oct 20, 2017.

2016

“Transnational Evangelical Networks and the Idea of Haiti” Invited conference on the history of Protestantism, Université d’Etat, Haiti, June 2016

“New Pentecostal Spiritual Geographies” on panel for Caribbean Studies Association, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, June 7, 2016

“The Militarization of Prayer and Evangelical Spiritual Warfare in Haiti,” NYU Center for Caribbean and Latin American Studies, April 18, 2016

2015

“Jesus and Jezebel: Performing Gender and Sexuality in the Evangelical Movement in Haiti” Invited talk for Duke University conference on Performance, Gender and Sexuality, Oct 29, 2015

“The Self Presentation of Haitian Vodou,” on panel for Haitian Studies Association Conference, U of Montreal, Oct 22, 2015

“American Spiritual Warfare and Vodou in Haiti” Invited talk at Indiana University, Oct 1, 2015

“American Evangelical Spiritual Warfare and Vodou in Haiti” Invited talk at DePaul University in Chicago, May 11, 2015.

“Capturing and Liberating Zombies: Ceremonies of Desacralization for Life and Art” talk at invited conference on Zombies: The Haitian and American Reality Beyond the Myth, Duke University, March 21, 2015.

“Racing Zombies, Zombies and Race,” talk at invited conference on Zombies: The Haitian and American Reality Beyond the Myth, Duke University, March 20, 2015.

“The Militarization of American Prayer,” Social Science Research Council invited conference, Feb 6, 2015.

2014

“Speaking Aggressive Prayer,” paper for American Anthropological Association conference, Washington DC, Nov 2014.

“The Protestantization of Vodou: Crossing Religious Boundaries” paper for Haitian Studies Association conference, U Notre Dame, Nov 2014

“Religious worlds of NY,” talk for Interfaith Center of NY July 23, 2014.

2013

“Tituba’s Revenge” for “Heretical History” American Religious History conference and edited volume, Yale University April 5-6, 2013.

2012

“Vodou Funerary Rituals in a Transnational Age: The Bittersweet Double-Return Across Two Waters of My Priest of the Drum” for Haitian Studies Association conference, York College, Nov 8-11, 2012.

Discussant, invited symposium on “Emotive Cognition and Sensuous Devotion in Catholicism” at Connecticut College, Oct 27, 2012.

“Studying Prayer as Practice,” Working Group for the Templeton Foundation Initiative on the Study of Prayer, Social Science Research Council, Brooklyn, NY, Oct 5, 2012.

“How Evangelicals Rewrote the Haitian Revolution,” invited talk at Connecticut College, Oct 1, 2012.

“A Critique of the Cultural Productions of Humanitarian Relief,” invited talk at the University of Connecticut Human Rights Institute, Sept 10, 2012.

Respondent, invited workshop on “Charity and Corporate Catholicism,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Anthropology, Aug 23, 2012.

“Native Sons of the Soil and the Jezebel Spirit,” invited conference on “Black Women and Pentecostalism in Diaspora,” Bowdoin College, April 21-22, 2012.

“The Telethon and the Haiti Earthquake: A Critique of the Culture of Humanitarian Relief,” Keynote address for “Music and Crisis” conference at the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Music, UC Santa Barbara, April 14-15, 2012.

“Haiti’s Pact with Satan: History and Geography in the Evangelical Spiritual Warfare Movement,” invited talk for Black Studies, UC Santa Barbara, April 13, 2012.

2011

“Tribe, Kingdom, Nation and the Haiti Diaspora,” Haitian Studies Association annual conference, Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 10-12, 2011.

“Music, Religion and the Haiti Earthquake,” Bishop Walter F. Sullivan Chair in Catholic Studies Lecture, Virginia Commonwealth University, Oct 12, 2012.

“Haiti Earthquake and Spiritual Mapping Theologies of Mission,” invited conference on “Transnational Religion, Missionization, and Refugee Migrants in Comparative Perspective” at Max Plank Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany Oct 6-7, 2011.

“Haiti’s Pact with Satan: History and Geography in the Evangelical Spiritual Warfare Movement,” Limpitlaw Annual Lecture, Trinity College, Sept 21, 2011.

“Songs from the Rubble to the Telethon: Music and the Haiti Quake,” Amherst College, Sept 28, 2011.

“Move Your Words,” Keynote Presentation with Lovely Nicolas, Conference on the African Dance Diaspora and Embodied Knowledge, Harvard University, March 25, 2011.

“Religion: A Conversation,” Anthropology Colloquium at City of New York Graduate Center, March 4, 2011.

“Afro-Caribbean Religions in New York: What Social Workers Need to Know,” New York Interfaith Center, March 4, 2011.

“Haitian Music from Vodou to Gospel, Rara to Hip Hop,” Public lecture at New York Center for Traditional Music, Brooklyn, NY, March 3, 2011.

“Spiritual Warfare and its Transnational Circuits,” Yale University Consultation on “Transnational Dimensions of Black Religion,” March 1, 2011.

“Wyclef Jean’s Redemption Song,” invited conference titled “Global Oprah: Celebrity as Transnational Icon,” Yale University, Feb 25, 2011.

“Evangelical Revival and the Haiti Quake,” invited talk for Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies Symposium “Haiti 2011,” Florida State University, Feb 17, 2011.

“What Work does ‘Diaspora’ do for History and Religion?” American Historical Association panel, Boston, Jan 6, 2011.

2010

“Lessons in Religion and the Haiti Earthquake,” panel in honor of Karen McCarthy Brown, American Anthropological Association, Nov 17-21, 2010. [also panel organizer]

“Neoliberal Capitalism and “Disaster Evangelism” after the Haiti Quake,” Haitian Studies Association panel, Brown University, Nov 13, 2010.

“Telethons, Humanitarianism, and the Haiti Quake,” invited conference titled “Neoliberalism and the Politics of the Body in the Americas,” NYU, Nov 4, 2010.

“Music and the Haiti Quake,” public lecture at University of Miami, Oct 20, 2010.

“From the Rubble to the Telethon: Music and the Haiti Quake,” Vassar College, Sept 27, 2010.

"Slaves, Cannibals, and Infected Hyper-Whites: The Race and Religion of Zombies in Haitian Mystical Arts and American Film," invited conference titled “Mumbo Jumbo: Critical Perspectives on Black Atlantic Sacred Arts,” UCLA June 3-4, 2010.

“Revolutionary Religion and The Evangelical Rewriting of Haitian History,” invited talk for symposium titled “Slavery, Revolution and Freedom: Haiti and the Atlantic World,” Virginia Commonwealth University, April 14, 2010.

“Religion after the Earthquake,” invited talk for “The UVA Haiti Working Group: Reimagining Haiti,” University of Virginia, April 9, 2010.

“Global Evangelicalism’s Spiritual Mapping Movement: From Sarah Palin’s Alaska to Pat Robertson’s Haiti,” Wesleyan University Division II Lunch talk, April 8, 2010.

“Slavery, Sin, and Spirits in Historical Narratives of Haiti,” invited talk at University of Virginia, March 15, 2010.

“Scholarship and Activism: Responding to and Explaining the Disaster in Haiti through Music and Religion,” Keynote address for Mid-Atlantic chapter for Society for Ethnomusicology, Charlottesville, VA, March 14, 2010.

“Public Spectacles of Spiritual Warfare: Evangelical Revival Before and After the Haiti Earthquake,” for invited conference at Social Science Research Council on “Spiritual Politics/The Politics of Spirituality,” New York, NY, March 26, 2010.

Guest speaker, Religious Studies graduate colloquium, Yale, March 22, 2010.

“Field/working the Black Diaspora,” guest speaker for “Endeavors” graduate student-led series, Yale African American Studies, March 4, 2010.

“The Politics of Religion and the Haiti Earthquake: Theology, Missions, Adoptions, and Aid,” public talk for Yale University Thomas E. Golden Center, Tuesday Feb 23, 2010.

2009

Guest speaker, American Studies graduate colloquium, Boston College, Oct 20, 2009.

“Evangelical Spiritual Warfare and Vodou in Haiti,” invited talk for Boston College, “Front Row” public lecture series, Oct 19, 2009. [Webcast available at <http://wilma.bc.edu/program/mcalister2/>]

“Time, Space, and Spirit in Haitian Religion,” invited talk for Florida International University’s Haitian Summer Institute program, Miami, FL, July 21, 2009.

“Musical Religious Communities in the Haitian Diaspora,” invited talk for Center for Black Music Research conference, Puerto Rico, June 19, 2009.

“The Black Music Diaspora and the Francophone Caribbean,” African and African Diaspora Studies Workshop, Wesleyan University, April 24, 2009.

“Dead Men Walking: Zombies from Haiti to Hollywood,” Center for Humanities, Wesleyan University, April 6, 2009.

“Zombie Crisis” Society for the Anthropology of Religion, conference panel, Asilomar, CA, March 28, 2009.

2008

“Wyclef Jean’s Redemption Song: Religion and Transnational Migration in Haitian Hip Hop,” Society of Ethnomusicology panel, Wesleyan University, Oct. 28, 2008.

“The Religious Politics of Aesthetic Battling in Haitian Rara Parades,” invited conference on “Aesthetic Battling Genres in the African Diaspora” at Baruch College, May 2, 2008.

2007

“When Anthropologists Make Lasting Commitments to People From the Field,” American Anthropological Association panel, Washington, DC, Nov 28, 2007.

“Caribbean Religions in New York,” for panel at Brooklyn Museum symposium, Oct 27, 2007.

“Rara in Haiti,” Swarthmore College Religion Department, March 2007.

2006

“American Missionary Businessmen in the Age of Transnational Evangelicalism,” American Anthropological Association panel, San Jose, CA, Nov 16, 2006.

“Vodou in Haiti: Myth and Reality,” for Haitian Student Club, Norwalk Community College, Oct 30, 2006.

“Sacred Music in the Caribbean,” Music Department at Amherst College, Amherst, Sept 18, 2006.

“Spiritual Warfare and the Evangelical Rewriting of History in Haiti,” pre-circulated paper for discussion at the University of Michigan Graduate Workshop in Anthropology and History, Sept 15, 2006.

“Mapping Spirit-Geographies in Black Atlantic Worlds,” invited talk for the Atlantic Studies Initiative, University of Michigan, Sept 15, 2006.

“What’s Religion Got to do With It? Religion and Intersectionality in Ethnic Studies” invited conference on “Multiethnic Alliances,” U.C. Santa Barbara, May 12-13, 2006.

“Mysticism in the Caribbean” Haitian Student Association conference, NYU, March 11, 2006.

“Vodou and Hip-Hop 101,” invited lecture, Caribbean Student’s Association, U. Mass Dartmouth, Feb 6, 2006.

2005

“Religion and its Insiders and Outsiders,” invited talk, graduate workshop in Ethnography of Religion at Harvard University, Dec 7, 2005.

“Vodou in Haiti: Myth v. Reality,” public lecture at Groton Public Library for the One Book One Region 2005 program, July 5, 2005.

“New Research on Afro-Caribbean Religions in the U.S.A.,” conference hosted by the Interfaith Center of New York. June 26, 2005

“Luck and Magic in the Caribbean: Ontologies of Divination,” Rutgers University invited symposium on “Luck, Chance, and Destiny: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Divination,” Organized by T.J. Jackson Lears at the Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture, March 4, 2005.

“Moral Geography, Moral Media,” for working group at the NYU Center for Religion and Media, Jan 21, 2005.

2004

“Global Christianity: Spiritual Warfare from the US to Haiti,” Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, Nov 22, 2004.

“Slavery, Sex and Death: Zombies and the Colonial Legacy in Haiti,” Americas Forum “Days of the Dead” series, Russell House, Wesleyan, Oct 21, 2004.

Public Interview of Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon at Brooklyn Academy of Music, opening night of Robert Wilson and Bernice Reagon collaboration of “The Temptation of Saint Anthony,” Oct 19, 2004.

“Evangelical Media, Myth, and the Haitian Bicentennial,” for panel at “Media, Religion and Culture Conference,” Louisville, Kentucky, Sept 3, 2004.
Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Presenter-Anthropologist for “Haiti: Freedom and Creativity From the Mountains to the Sea,” on the National Mall, Washington, DC, June 23 to July 4, 2004.

“Caribbean Religions in New York,” Interfaith Center of New York, June 21, 2004.

Discussant, invited conference on “Women, Religion and the African Diaspora,” Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, April 23, 2004.
“Rara Festivals and The Haitian Bicentennial: Vodou and Politics on Parade,” public talk sponsored by the Black Studies Program at Portland State University, Portland, OR, April 17, 2004.

“Who Writes Haitian History?” Haitian Student Conference, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, April 3, 2004.

“Religion and History, Religion and Race: The Spanish Inquisition in Haiti” for graduate seminar on “Method and Theory in the Study of Religion,” Harvard University, March 16, 2004.

“Winning the Land for Jesus: The Contest for the National Body of Haiti,” Plenary Address at the Society for Pentecostal Studies Conference, Marquette University, Milwaukee WI, March 13, 2004.

“Rara and Media in the Haitian Diaspora,” talk for seminar on “Religion and Media,” New York University, March 11, 2004.

“Religion, Slavery and Freedom in Haiti,” talk at Symposium on the Bicentennial of Haiti, Wesleyan University, Feb 13, 2004.

“Cultural Aspects of Haiti,” talk at the “Celebration of the Bicentennial of Haiti’s Independence,” Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT, Jan 15, 2004.

2003

"Transnational Ethnography and the Politics of Insecurity: Doing Fieldwork during Crisis and Coup d'Etat," talk for Yale University Graduate Colloquium on Anthropology and Social Theory, Dec 1, 2003.

“What’s Religion Got to Do With It?” Conference on “Transcending Borders: Migration, Ethnicity and Incorporation in an Age of Globalism” sponsored by the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and New York University, Oct 31-Nov 2, 2003.

“Queering Caribbean Culture,” talk at Temple University Department of Religion, Oct 21, 2003.

“The End Times in the Americas: National Violence and Global Belonging in Transnational Evangelical Media,” American Studies Association Conference, Hartford, CT, Oct 18, 2003.

“Boukman and the Bible from Badjo to Brooklyn,” Haitian Studies Association Conference, Florida International University, Oct 9-11, 2003.

“Jesus and the Jews in Haiti,” public talk at University of Texas at Austin, sponsored by the Department of History, Sept 22, 2003.

“Religion in Diasporic Haiti,” invited talk for Florida International University’s Haitian Summer Institute program, Miami, FL, July 23, 2003.

"Evangelical Video meets Vodou in Haiti," talk at “Spectacles of Religiosity” conference, New York University Hemispheric Institute and Performance Studies Department, July 12, 2003.

“Caribbean Religions in New York: La Regla de Ocha, Vodou, and Rastafari,” lecture at Interfaith Center of New York, June 22, 2003.

“Mapping the Place of Religion in America: American Civil Religion and its Moral Geography,” plenary talk for Northeast American Studies Association annual conference, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, CT, April 26, 2003.

“Transnational Popular Black Culture: Religion and Festival in Haiti and Brooklyn,” talk sponsored by the Wood Lecture Series, Dept of Religion, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, Feb 6, 2003.

“Haiti’s Musical Religious Culture and its Legacy in Louisiana,” invited symposium titled “Contact of Cultures: The Haitian Factor in the Louisiana Purchase and Beyond.”

Louisiana State University Dept. of Geography and Anthropology, Baton Rouge, LA, Jan 31, 2003.

Courses

Faculty Seminars on “Teaching Academic Writing”

“The Anthropology of Black Religions in the Atlantic World”

“The End of the World: The Millennium and End Times Thought in America”

“Introduction to the Study of Religion” (Core Course)

“American Christianities”

“Globalization and Christianity”

“Majors Colloquium in Religious Studies” (Core course)

“Mixed in America: Race, Religion and Memoir”

“Religion in America”

“Religion and the Social Construction of Race”

“Theorizing Religion with Zombies”

“Vodou from Haiti to Hollywood”

Doctoral Committees

Erin Durban, U of Arizona, Gender & Women’s Studies, 2015

Elena Guzman, Cornell University, Anthropology, 2019

Hillel Horacio Athias-Robles, Columbia University, Religion, 2022

Manuscript Reviewer

Duke University Press, Indiana University Press, University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, University Press of Florida, American Ethnologist, American Quarterly, Anthropological Quarterly, Cultural Anthropology, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Journal of American Ethnic History, Journal of Brass Studies, Journal of Caribbean Studies, Kalfou, Nova Religio, Religion

Expert legal consultant

In cases where religion is a factor. Experience in cases involving Haitian Vodou, Pentecostalism, American Moorish Science, and Jamaican Rastafari.